

Appl. No. 10/582,792
Amdt. dated Aug. 20, 2008
Reply to Office action of May 20, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The four attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 3, 5, 6 and 8.

In the “Replacement Sheet” containing Figs. 3 and 4, Fig. 3 has been amended to show the second conical face (which is described in para. 34 as being below the edge 12) indicated by reference numeral “21” and the seat angle difference of the second angle face has been indicated by reference numeral “27.”

In the “Replacement Sheets” containing Figs. 5, 6 and 8, reference numeral “16” has been omitted in Figs. 5, 6 and 8.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Claims 11, 12, 15 and 18-20 remain in this application. Claims 1-10, 13, 14, 16 and 17 have been canceled.

The drawings have been objected to as containing the reference numeral "16," in Figs. 5, 6 and 8, which is not described in the specification. In the attached corrected drawings, reference numeral "16" has been deleted in Figs. 5, 6 and 8. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

It is also noted that several differences existed between what is shown in original Fig. 3 and the description thereof in para. 34. In original Fig. 3, both the first and second conical faces are indicated by reference numeral "20." According to para. 34, the second conical face (which is described as being below the edge 12) should be indicated by reference numeral "21." Also, in Fig. 3, the seat angle difference of the first conical face and the seat angle difference of the second angle face are both indicated by reference numeral "18." According to para. 34, the seat angle difference of the second angle face should be indicated by reference numeral "27." In the attached corrected drawing containing Fig. 3, these errors have been corrected. Approval and entry of the corrected sheets of drawings is requested.

Claims 13-15, 17, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second para., as indefinite. The claims have been amended to overcome this rejection. Specifically, the language "valve needle" has been corrected to read "valve member" and "a sealing edge" is now recited in claim 11. Also, the spelling of the word "or" has been corrected in claim 13 (now incorporated into claim 11) and in claim 15. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 112 rejection is requested.

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Claims 11-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 102(e) as anticipated by Boecking (US Publication 2003/0132413) and claims 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Boecking (US Publication 2003/0132413). Reconsideration of these rejections is also requested.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the language of claims 13 and 15. In addition, claim 11 has been amended to require a sealing edge (edge 8 in Figs. 5 and 10) formed on the valve member (3 in Fig. 5) of an inward-opening valve or on the valve body (2 in Fig. 10) of an outward-opening valve, the sealing edge (8) being located closer to the high-pressure region (6) than the pocketlike recess (36) when the high-pressure region (6) and the low-pressure region (7) are disconnected from one another, that is, when the valve is closed. This feature of applicants' invention is clearly illustrated in original Figs. 5 and 10 and is not taught or suggested by Boecking.

On page 2, left-hand column, para. 15, last sentence, Boecking teaches that:

In the closed position of the valve needle 5, the annular edge 34 is either disposed inside this section of the valve seat 9 or at the level of the second annular groove 38.

What this means is further explained in claim 2 of Boecking, which teaches that the annular edge (34) lies inside the second annular groove (38) when the valve needle (5) is in the closed position. This teaching coincides with what is also shown in Figs. 2 and 3 of Boecking. Both of these figures show the valve in the open position with the annular edge (34) at about the level of the upper edge of the recess (38). Thus, when Boecking's valve is fully closed, the edge (34) must be inside the annular groove (38).

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It should also be noted that Boecking teaches an inward-opening valve and that the sealing edge of Boecking's valve is located on the valve body, not on the valve member as required by claim 11.

To support a rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), it must be shown that each element of the claim is found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference. See Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp., 713 F.2d 760, 772, 218 USPQ 781, 789 (Fed. Cir. 1983), cert. denied, 465 U.S. 1026 (1984).

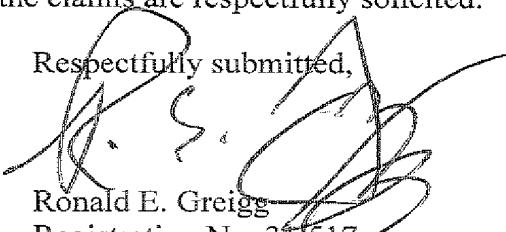
Boecking fails to teach a valve of the type recited in claim 11, wherein the valve member is the valve member of an inward-opening valve or an outward-opening valve, a pocketlike recess is embodied in the seat face of the valve body of an inward-opening valve, or in the seat face of an outward-opening valve, and a sealing edge formed on the valve member of an inward-opening valve or on the valve body of an outward-opening valve, the sealing edge being located closer to the high-pressure region than the pocketlike recess when the high-pressure region and the low-pressure region are disconnected from one another. Thus, claim 11 and the claims dependent thereon are not anticipated by Boecking.

Please charge the fee for any necessary extension of time to deposit account No. 07-2100.

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Entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

Replacement Sheet